



SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

EN010106

Volume 8

8.12 Statement of Commonality

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

Sunnica Energy Farm

Statement of Commonality

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Table of Contents

Chapter	Pages
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Overview of the Scheme	1
1.2 Purpose of the Statement of Commonality	2
1.3 Structure	2
1.4 List of Statements of Common Ground	2
1.5 Summary of Current Position of SoCG	2
2 Summary of Commonality of Each Topic Covered	6
3 Additional Commentary	9
3.1 Deadline 2	9

Table of Tables

Table 1-1 Status of SoCGs at Deadline 2	3
Table 2-1 Summary of Commonality with each party in relation to each topic covered at Deadline 2.....	7

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview of the Scheme

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Commonality has been prepared in respect of the application for the proposed Sunnica Energy Farm Development Consent Order ("the Application") made by Sunnica Limited ("Sunnica") to the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ("Secretary of State") for a Development Consent Order ("the Order") under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008").
- 1.1.2 The Order, if granted, would authorise Sunnica to construct, operate (including maintain) and decommission a ground mounted solar farm across Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West B. The Scheme includes the following key components:
- a. Solar PV modules;
 - b. PV module mounting structures;
 - c. Inverters;
 - d. Transformers;
 - e. Switchgear;
 - f. Onsite cabling (including high and low voltage cabling);
 - g. One or more BESS (expected to be formed of lithium ion batteries storing electrical energy) on Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, and Sunnica West Site A;
 - h. An electrical compound comprising a substation and control building (Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, and Sunnica West Site A only);
 - i. Burwell National Grid Substation Extension should Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Option 2 be taken forward;
 - j. Office/warehouse (Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B only);
 - k. Fencing and security measures;
 - l. Drainage;
 - m. Internal access roads and car parking;
 - n. Landscaping including habitat creation areas; and
 - o. Construction laydown areas.

1.2 Purpose of the Statement of Commonality

- 1.2.1 This document provides the Examining Authority (ExA) with an overview of the position of each Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Applicant and the interested parties in relation to the Scheme at Deadline 2. This document will be updated and submitted at the requested deadlines outlined in the Examination timetable for the Scheme.

1.3 Structure

- 1.3.1 This Statement of Commonality is structured as follows:
- a. Section 2: Summary of commonality of each topic covered – provides an overview of all topics covered and each stakeholder's position.
 - b. Section 3: Additional commentary for each SoCG submission deadline.

1.4 List of Statements of Common Ground

- 1.4.1 **Table 1-1** provides the list of SoCGs that have been prepared by the Applicant and the respective stakeholders in accordance with the list as requested by the Examining Authority in their letters issued on 28 June and 31 August 2022.

1.5 Summary of Current Position of SoCG

- 1.5.1 The SoCGs submitted alongside this document at Deadline 2 reflect the positions of the Applicant and stakeholders.
- 1.5.2 **Table 1-1** provides an overview of the status of each SoCG.

Table 1-1 Status of SoCGs at Deadline 2

Party	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 6	Status at Deadline 8
Joint Local Planning Authorities	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Environment Agency	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Natural England	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Historic England	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
National Highways	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
National Grid Gas plc	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Chippenham Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Burwell Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Red Lodge Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			

Party	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 6	Status at Deadline 8
Fordham Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Moulton Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Freckenham Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Mildenhall High Town Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Worlington Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Snailwell Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Isleham Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Reach Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Ministry of Defence	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
National Air Traffic Services	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
East of England Ambulance Service	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			

Party	Status at Deadline 2	Status at Deadline 4	Status at Deadline 6	Status at Deadline 8
Say no to Sunnica and Newmarket Horsemen	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Anglian Water	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Kennet Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Barton Mills Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Wicken Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
West Row Parish Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			
Newmarket Town Council	Draft submitted. Discussions ongoing			

2 Summary of Commonality of Each Topic Covered

2.1.1 **Table 2-1** presents a summary of commonality at Deadline 2, on each topic discussed between the Applicant and stakeholder using the following colour coding:

	Matter agreed
	Matter under discussion
	Matter not agreed
	Topic not relevant to the stakeholder

Table 2-1 Summary of Commonality with each party in relation to each topic covered at Deadline 2

Party	Protected Provisions	Design	Climate	Cultural Heritage	Ecology and Natural Conservation	Flood Risk, Drainage and Water Resources	Landscape and Visual Amenity	Noise and Vibration	Socio-economics and Land Use (including soils)	Transport and Access	Air Quality	Human Health	Glint and Glare	Effect Interactions / Cumulative Effects	Legislation and Policy	Compulsory Acquisition	Draft DCO
Joint Local Planning Authorities																	
Environment Agency																	
Natural England																	
Historic England																	
National Highways																	
Suffolk Wildlife Trust																	
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc																	
National Grid Gas plc																	
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Party	Protected Provisions	Design	Climate	Cultural Heritage	Ecology and Natural Conservation	Flood Risk, Drainage and Water Resources	Landscape and Visual Amenity	Noise and Vibration	Socio-economics and Land Use (including soils)	Transport and Access	Air Quality	Human Health	Glint and Glare	Effect Interactions / Cumulative Effects	Legislation and Policy	Compulsory Acquisition	Draft DCO
Say no to Sunnica and Newmarket Horseman																	
Anglian Water																	
Kenet Parish Council																	
Barton Mills Parish Council																	
Wicken Parish Council																	
West Row Parish Council																	
Newmarket Town Council																	

3 Additional Commentary

3.1 Deadline 2

3.1.1 Since issue by the ExA of the letters dated 28 June and 31 August 2022:

- a. A joint SoCG has been prepared for Cambridgeshire County Council, Suffolk County Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and West Suffolk Council in line with the joint meetings with the Local Planning Authorities.
- b. Natural England and Suffolk Wildlife Trust both agreed to enter into separate SoCGs with the Applicant.
- c. The Newmarket Horsemen Group agreed to enter into a joint SoCG with the Say No To Sunnica Action Group (SNTS).
- d. RSPB contacted the Applicant and raised that they were not registered as Interested Parties to the Examination so would not be able to act as signatories to an SoCG.
- e. National Grid SoCG has been split into separate SoCGs for National Grid Electricity Transmission plc and National Grid Gas plc.
- f. A number of other parties have come forward requesting input to SoCGs including: Isleham Parish Council, Reach Parish Council, Anglian Water, Kennet Parish Council, Barton Mills Parish Council, Wicken Parish Council, West Row Parish Council and Newmarket Town Council.

3.1.2 The following stakeholders have not provided comments on their corresponding SoCGs ahead of Deadline 2. The Applicant is anticipating comments back from stakeholders by either Deadline 3 or Deadline 4.

- a. Chippenham Parish Council
- b. Burwell Parish Council
- c. Red Lodge Parish Council
- d. Fordham Parish Council
- e. Freckenham Parish Council
- f. Mildenhall High Town Council
- g. Worlington Parish Council
- h. Snailwell Parish Council
- i. Isleham Parish Council
- j. Reach Parish Council
- k. Ministry of Defence
- l. SNTS and Newmarket Horseman Group
- m. Anglian Water
- n. Kennet Parish Council
- o. Barton Mills Parish Council

- p. Wicken Parish Council
- q. West Row Parish Council.